Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Previously Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for validating an address entered by a user at a remote terminal, comprising:

receiving the address from a source at the remote terminal;

accessing a database on an address matching server that contains one or more valid addresses;

comparing the address from the user with the database of valid addresses; and

storing information relating to the address in a companion file on the remote terminal if a match is found.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein receiving the address comprises importing the address from a database of addresses.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the address from the database of addresses is saved as comma-separated value (CSV) data, and further including:

determining selected characteristics of the database of addresses; and

processing the CSV address data based on the characteristics of the database of addresses.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, further including:

receiving a second address from the source;

comparing selected information from the second address with stored information in the companion file;

approving the address for use if the selected information corresponds with the stored information in the companion file; and

accessing the database of valid addresses if no match is found.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein comparing the second address with the stored addresses in the companion file comprises determining whether a stored address in the companion file is stale, and rejecting the stored address if it is stale.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein accessing the database comprises accessing a remote database over a communication network.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the database is maintained by a remote address matching server.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for matching an address with a database of valid addresses, comprising:

receiving address data ~~in~~ <u>formatted in accordance with</u> a particular format <u>from a plurality of possible formats</u>;

manipulating the <u>received address</u> data into a predetermined format corresponding to said particular format;

comparing data in the predetermined format with valid addresses in the database; and

presenting the results if one or more matches are found.

19. (Original)   The method of claim 18, wherein comparing data in the predetermined format with valid addresses in the database comprises accessing a remote database of addresses over a communication network.

20. (Original)   The method of claim 19 wherein the database is maintained by a remote address matching server.

21. (Original)   The method of claim 18, wherein manipulating comprises applying a plurality of query permuters to the address data to convert the data into respective formats.

22. (Original)   The method of claim 21, wherein applying a plurality of query permuters comprises applying at least one of a direct permuter and a single line permuter to the address data.

23. (Original)   The method of claim 22, wherein applying further comprises applying a truncate permuter to the output structure of the direct permuter.

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Claims 24-48 (Previously Cancelled)